

MISCELLANY

GENERAL ELECTION

The statewide general election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year. (Section 1200 California Elections Code 1999)

DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION

The statewide direct primary shall be held on the first Tuesday in March of each even-numbered year. In any year which is evenly divisible by the number four, the statewide primary shall be held on the first Tuesday in March and shall be consolidated with the presidential primary held in that year. (Section 1201 California Elections Code 1999)

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The presidential primary shall be consolidated with the statewide direct primary held in any year evenly divisible by the number four. (Section 1202 California Elections Code 1999)

THE GOLDEN STATE

California – The Golden State, so nicknamed because its remarkable prosperity began with the discovery of gold in 1849, was admitted to the Union as the thirty-first state on September 9, 1850. No one knows the exact origin of the name, but it is believed to have come from a 16th century poem of romantic chivalry, bestowed by Hernando Cortes himself. The first official mention of it was a July 2, 1542, entry in the diary of Juan Cabrillo as his ship lay at anchor off the coast of Baja California.

The Great Seal – The design for the Great Seal was adopted at the Constitutional Convention of 1849. Under thirty-one stars, Minerva, Roman goddess of arts, sciences, and wisdom in war and peace, keeps watch over a tableau depicting industry, commerce, agriculture, and the grandeur of nature. Like the political birth of our State, Minerva was born full grown from the brain of Jupiter, father of the gods and guardian of law and order. The grizzly bear at her feet, independent and formidable, symbolizes California.

State Animal – The California Grizzly Bear became the official state animal in 1953, decades after dying out in California the Grizzly Bear appears on the State Flag and the Great Seal. A bear frequently symbolizes California in political cartoons. Now extinct in California, it was a particularly large, fierce and formidable animal. The last one was shot in 1922. This large and powerful carnivore once thrived in the great valleys and low mountains of the state, probably in greater numbers than in any other state.

State Bird – The California Quail, also known as the valley quail, became the official state bird in 1931. Plump, gray-colored and smaller than a pigeon, the California quail has a downward-curving black plume on top of its head and a black bib with a white stripe under its beak. They are known for their hardiness and adaptability.

State Colors – Blue and gold ribbons (Yale blue and golden yellow) are used with the Great Seal. They are also the colors of the University of California.

State Dance – West Coast Swing Dancing. It originated in California and is danced in competition nationally and internationally.

State Fife and Drum Band – The California Consolidated Drum Band was designated as the official State Fife and Drum Corps in 1997 West Coast Swing Dancing. It originated in California and is danced in competition nationally and internationally.

State Fish – The California Golden Trout is native to no other state and became the official State fish in 1947. An offshore, or color phase of the cutthroat trout, it is found only in the icy streams of the high Sierra. Originally, the species was found only in a few icy streams in the Kern River, South of Mount Whitney.

State Flag – The Bear Flag, was first raised on June 14, 1846, by American settlers during an uprising against rule from Mexico. Although their *California Republic* was short lived, its flag remained in use as a symbol of our love for freedom in this state. Adopted by the State Legislature in 1911.

State Flower – The Golden Poppy, can be found blooming in some part of the state throughout the year. It became the state flower in 1903. April 6 is *California Poppy Day*. California Indians valued the poppy as a food source and for the oil extracted from the plant. Also known as the flame flower, the poppy grows wild throughout California.

State Fossil – The Saber-Toothed Cat was adopted by the Legislature in 1973, was a powerful, tiger-sized carnivore with 8-inch fangs. Common in California 40 million years ago, it hunted thick-skinned animals such as mastodons.

State Gemstone – Benitoite was designated as the official State Gemstone in 1985. Sometimes called the "blue diamond"

State Insect – The California Dog-face Butterfly is found nowhere outside this state. Its wings are an iridescent bluish-black, orange and sulfur-yellow in color. Designated in 1972.

State Marine Fish – The Garibaldi, in 1995, the Legislature acted to protect the garibaldi by placing a moratorium on commercial collection until the year 2002. They also named the garibaldi the official State Marine Fish.

State Marine Mammal – The California Gray Whale is 30 to 50 feet long and weighs up to 40 tons. The California gray whale was designated the State Marine Mammal in 1975.

State Mineral – Native Gold is the official State Mineral and was so designated in 1965. This state has produced more gold than any other in the Union, and it can still be panned from her streambeds.

State Motto – *Eureka*, appears on the Great Seal of the State. It is a Greek word meaning, *I have found it*, referring originally, to the discovery of gold. "Eureka" was made the official State Motto in 1963.

State Nickname – "The Golden State" has long been a popular designation for California and was made the official State Nickname in 1968. It is particularly appropriate since California's modern development can be traced back to the discovery of gold in 1848 and fields of golden poppies can be seen each spring throughout the state. The Golden State Museum is also the name of a new museum slated to open in late 1998 at the California State Archives in Sacramento. The museum's exhibits will bring to life the momentous events of California's history through a series of innovative, interpretive exhibits.

State Poet Laureate – The Poet Laureate of California is based on a respected and ancient tradition that a state should designate a poet laureate to express adequately in poetry the wit, wisdom and beauty appropriate for honoring individuals, events special occasions and the natural heritage and culture of the state. Charles B. Garrigus has been Poet Laureate of California since March 23, 1966.

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State Prehistoric Artifact – Perhaps the most unusual state symbol is the state prehistoric artifact, the chipped stone bear. Discovered at an archaeological dig site in San Diego County in 1985, and resembles a walking bear. The Legislature named the chipped stone bear a state symbol in 1991 making California the first state to designate an official State Prehistoric Artifact.

State Reptile – The Desert Tortoise digs a deep burrow which it peaceably shares with owls and rattlers. Related to the giant Galapagos tortoise, it is vegetarian and, if not removed from its desert habitat, very long lived. The tortoise has been the official State Reptile since 1972.

State Rock – Serpentine. In 1965, it was adopted by the Legislature as the official state rock.

State Soil – The San Joaquin Soil was designated as the official state soil in 1997. The designation commemorates the completion of the state's most comprehensive soil inventory and acknowledges the importance of soil.

State Song – *I Love You, California*, was first sung publicly by the great Mary Garden in 1913. Lyrics and music by Silverwood and Frankenstein of Los Angeles. In 1951, the State Legislature passed a resolution designating it as California's state song. In 1988, "I Love You, California" became the official State Song by law.

I Love You, California

I.

*I love you, California, you're the greatest state of all.
I love you in the winter, summer, spring and in the fall.
I love your fertile valleys; your dear mountains I adore.
I love your grand old ocean and I love her rugged shore.*

Chorus

*Where the snow crowned Golden Sierras
Keep their watch o'er the valleys bloom,
It is there I would be in our land by the sea,
Every breeze bearing rich perfume.
It is here nature gives of her rarest. It is Home Sweet Home to
me,
And I know when I die I shall breathe my last sigh
For my sunny California.*

II.

*I love your red-wood forests - love your fields of yellow grain.
I love your summer breezes and I love your winter rain.
I love you, land of flowers; land of honey, fruit and wine.
I love you, California; you have won this heart of mine.*

III.

*I love your old gray Missions - love your vineyards stretching far.
I love you, California, with your Golden Gate ajar.
I love your purple sun-sets, love your skies of azure blue.
I love you, California; I just can't help loving you.*

IV.

*I love you, Catalina, you are very dear to me.
I love you, Tamalpais, and I love Yosemite.
I love you, Land of Sunshine, Half your beauties are untold.
I loved you in my childhood, and I'll love you when I'm old.*

State Theater – Designed in the Spanish style by Pasadena architect Elmer Grey, the cornerstone for the Pasadena Playhouse was laid in May, 1924. The theater staged its first production in May 1925 and was recognized by the Legislature as the State Theater in 1937.

State Tree – The California redwood became the official state tree in 1937. Once common throughout the northern hemisphere, redwoods are now found only near the Pacific Coast. California Redwood in both its forms, Coastal and Sierra, is among the most ancient and awesome of living things. Except for Oregon, forests of these giant trees exist nowhere outside California. There actually are two species of California redwood: the coast redwood and the giant sequoia. The giant sequoia is the most massive tree in the world, with 30-foot diameter trunks not uncommon. They reach ages of over 3,000 years. The coast redwood is the tallest tree in the world, averaging about 300 feet high. The oldest known redwood lived to be 2,200 years old.